

II.—Note on a supposed Tooth of Galeocerdo from the English Chalk. By A. SMITH WOODWARD, F.L.S.

[Plate I. figs. 5-7.]

FOR some years a small Selachian tooth from the English Chalk has been exhibited in the British Museum among the doubtfully determined series of *Notidanus* in the anticipation that it might eventually prove to be an abnormal tooth of this genus. Quite lately, however, two more teeth of precisely the same character have come under the writer's notice from the collection of the late Prince of Mantua; and by the kindness of Mr. R. F. Damon, who has purchased the collection, these remarkable fossils are now made available for study and description. That the form of tooth in question is normal may thus be assumed with considerable certainty; and such being the case, it is of extreme interest as exhibiting no superficial features by which it can be distinguished from the genus *Galeocerdo*, a member of the family Carchariidæ. As is well known, all evidence hitherto obtained as to the occurrence of sharks of this family in Cretaceous formations is very uncertain; and it is only by examining the inner structure of the detached teeth that they can be distinguished from those of Lamnidæ. It is to be hoped, therefore, that an illustrated description of the three new teeth may soon lead to the discovery of additional specimens which can be sliced and microscopically examined.

The teeth are shown of the natural size in Plate I. figs. 5-7, the first or type specimen being exposed from the inner aspect, the others exhibiting the outer face. The crown is very low and its apex turned sharply backwards; the anterior coronal margin is gently arched and marked towards the base with a few feeble denticulations; the apex above the posterior notch is small and narrow; the margin below the posterior notch is much elongated and exhibits from seven to nine conspicuous denticles, decreasing in size backwards. The root is narrow, and the nutritive foramen on the inner side is in a deep vertical groove (fig. 5).

These Cretaceous teeth are much smaller than those of the typical *Galeocerdo* of Tertiary and Recent date, and differ from the majority in their remarkably low crown and the relatively small size of the apex of the tooth. They are most nearly paralleled by the teeth named *Galeocerdo latidens* from the Eocene of Bracklesham; but even the latter exhibit a much more prominent apex and relatively smaller posterior

denticles. They are thus distinctly new and may receive the provisional name of *Galeocerdo Jaekeli*, in compliment to the author of the most important contribution hitherto made to our knowledge of the extinct Carchariidæ*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

Fig. 1. *Diplomystus longicostatus*, Cope. Fish in lateral aspect, probably wanting the anterior dorsal margin. — Cretaceous; Bahia, Brazil. [Brit. Mus. no. P. 7109.]

Figs. 2-4. *Diplomystus Birdi*, sp. n. Three fishes in lateral aspect.— Upper Cretaceous; Hakel, Mount Lebanon, Syria. [Brit. Mus. nos. P. 83, P. 96, P. 96 a.]

Fig. 5. *Galeocerdo Jaekeli*, sp. n. Tooth, inner aspect.—Chalk; Kent. [Brit. Mus. no. 41706 a.]

Figs. 6, 7. Ditto. Two teeth, outer aspect.—Chalk, Kent. [Mantua Collection.]

[All the figures are of the natural size.]

III.—*New Species of Eastern Lepidoptera.*
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[Continued from vol. xiv. p. 443.]

Noctuidæ.

TRIFINÆ.

Genus ACRONYCTA, Ochs.

Acronycta gastridia, sp. n.

♂. Thorax grey: fore wings greyish white, irrorated with brown atoms; orbicular round and black-ringed; reniform brown, with a thin black bar on each side; basal and ante-medial double crenulated black transverse lines; a discal black line, with sharp outward dentations on the veins; an indistinct submarginal whitish dentated band and black points on the margin: hind wings grey, with a darker lunular mark at the end of the cell. Underside: fore wings greyish brown; hind wings greyish white, with a grey lunular mark at the end of each cell.

Expanse of wings $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Muree. One example.

Somewhat akin to the European *A. psi*, Linn.

* O. Jaekel, 'Die eocänen Selachier vom Monte Bolca' (1894), pp. 156-175.